



# BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## 2022 Annual Report

### Table of Contents

- I. Introduction..... 2
  - What is MBPAC ..... 2
- II. 2022 Year in Review ..... 2
  - Advisory Role ..... 2
    - Proposed Legislation Recommendations..... 3
    - State Rail Plan Recommendations ..... 3
    - Existing Nice Middleton Bridge Study Recommendation ..... 3
    - Bay Crossing Recommendation ..... 3
  - Membership..... 3
  - Ad-hoc Subcommittees ..... 4
- III. Individual Meeting Highlights ..... 4
  - January 27, 2022 ..... 4
  - April 22, 2022 ..... 5
  - July 22, 2022..... 5
  - September 27, 2022..... 5
  - October 28, 2022 ..... 6
- IV. 2023: Focus Areas ..... 6
- Appendix A - MBPAC member list as of December 2022..... 7
- Appendix B – Links to Relevant Documents..... 8
  - January 2022 Meeting:..... 8
  - April 2022 Meeting: ..... 8
  - July 2022 Meeting: ..... 8
  - September 2022 Meeting ..... 8
  - October 2022 Meeting:..... 8
  - Past Years’ Meeting Minutes ..... 8
- Appendix C – Subcommittee reports ..... 9
  - Pedestrian subcommittee ..... 9
  - Eastern Shore subcommittee..... 10
  - Legislative subcommittee ..... 11
- Appendix D – MDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Key Staff ..... 12

## I. Introduction

### What is MBPAC

The **Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (MBPAC) advises Maryland state government agencies on issues related to bicycling and pedestrian activity including funding, public awareness, safety and education as required by statute.

The twenty-two member committee is appointed by the Governor, combining the experience of citizens with the expertise of representatives from nine State agencies and one state-chartered bi-county commission. Committee members represent geographical regions throughout the State and specific interests, including those of visually and mobility-challenged individuals.

MBPAC has three primary focus areas for promoting bicycle and pedestrian activities:

1. **Mode of Transportation** – Promote non-motorized modes as healthy, efficient, and environmentally-friendly ways to travel
2. **Education and Awareness** – Promote activities, programs, and policies which foster improved bicycle and pedestrian safety education across all age groups; also increase awareness of the mission and work of MBPAC
3. **Tourism & Recreation** – Promoting and protecting Maryland's off-road trail system and on-road facilities, providing guidance to Maryland State agencies, and providing guidance on program strategies which promote Maryland's trails, infrastructure, and tourism resources

### MBPAC Website

<https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=140>

### MBPAC Email Contact

[MBPAC@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:MBPAC@mdot.maryland.gov)

## II. 2022 Year in Review

### Advisory Role

The Committee is charged with providing guidance to the state agencies involved in Bicycle and Pedestrian matters as noted in the prior section.

During 2022 the Committee or Subcommittees issued recommendations for several initiatives and programs. These included:

1. Proposed legislation
2. Maryland's Rail Plan
3. Study of retaining the existing Nice Middleton Bridge for active transportation use

4. Inclusion of a traffic-separated bicycle and pedestrian facility related to any Bay crossing improvements

These recommendation letters and memoranda are included in the Appendices accompanying this annual report. They are also located on the MBPAC website.

#### Proposed Legislation Recommendations

The Legislative Subcommittee recommended that the Administration and state agencies support a number of bicycle and pedestrian related bills that were filed in the House and Senate during the 2022 legislative session.

#### State Rail Plan Recommendations

The Maryland state Rail Plan was being updated for the first time since 2015. MBPAC issued recommendations to include as part of that update including evaluation of rail lines and projects currently and prospectively for potential use as multimodal corridors and additional matters related to bicycle parking, pedestrian connectivity and safety.

#### Existing Nice Middleton Bridge Study Recommendation

The Committee recommended the administration pause any demolition of the existing (now old) Nice Middleton Bridge (US 301) over the Potomac River and form a study group to evaluate the potential to retain the existing span considering all relevant factors. The Hogan Administration and Ports' chaired Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) did not respond to the committee's recommendation and proceeded with the bridge demolition.

#### Bay Crossing Recommendation

The Committee recommended that the Maryland Transportation Authority include a barrier separated pedestrian and bicycle accommodation in any new, replaced or renovated Chesapeake Bay Crossing. Further the Committee recommended that the Tier 2 NEPA study include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations in all evaluation scenarios.

The Committee utilizes a formal means of developing and documenting input on major projects, policies and related matters where and when appropriate. The Committee has prioritized increasing its engagement as part of the development of bicycle and pedestrian-related topics during the inception of these programs, and seeks active early engagement in significant matters that fall within its scope. We seek to be pro-active partners in the creation of these documents versus reactive to final drafts.

#### Membership

The Committee experienced some turnover during 2022. We welcomed four new members this year and one new intern to the staff team. Two members were reappointed for four year terms, including the Chairperson. New members included two members of the Administration's Departments and one member of the public.

The roster of members as of the end of 2022 is contained in Appendix A. The most current roster is posted on the [MBPAC website](#).

MDOT Committee staff continued their diligent efforts and remained highly supportive of the Committee. A list of these positions and the individuals currently serving in those roles is contained in [Appendix D](#).

As the Governor Hogan administration ends in mid-January 2023, there will be additional turnover as several current member's terms have expired and official replacements will be approved in due course by the incoming Governor Moore administration's appointments office.

The Committee thanks departing member Heather Ersts, Chelsea Hayman, Sarah Lipkin Sularz, Marquette Rogers, Karen Schonfeld and Jim Smith, for their contributions to the Committee.

### Ad-hoc Subcommittees

Subcommittees, or working groups, are permitted to help advance work of the full MBPAC, but are subject to full Open Meetings Act requirements if given official standing. Based on a thorough review of the needs and opportunities related to smaller group investigation into committee wide concerns, the Committee decided that the formation of ad-hoc committees on a volunteer basis would best serve the Committee's needs and interests. These ad-hoc committees may include stakeholders outside of the formal MBPAC membership.

In 2022 four ad-hoc subcommittee had meetings. The first, a Pedestrian focused subcommittee is being led by Marian Vessels. The second, led by Patti Sevens, is focused on the Eastern Shore. The third, is a subcommittee focused on individuals with Disabilities, led by Chelsea Hayman and then subsequently by Bong Delrosario. The fourth subcommittee, led in 2022 by Jon Morrison is focused on legislative matters. An additional subcommittee was discussed and will be formed to coordinate with MDOT on the updates and development of the 2024 Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

A summary of the subcommittee meetings can be located in [Appendix C](#).

MBPAC foresees the probability of additional ad-hoc subcommittees being formed in future as a mechanism to help promote active engagement and inclusion, while ensuring adequate focused attention on matters within the Committee's purview. Potential additional ad-hoc subcommittees may include groups focused on plan updates, legislation, infrastructure (roads or trails), and tourism.

MBPAC membership does not limit members from participating in or expressing bicycle and pedestrian related concerns as part of outside bodies formal or otherwise.

## III. Individual Meeting Highlights

Detailed meeting minutes are kept on the Committee [website](#) and are linked in [Appendix B](#).

### January 27, 2022

January's meeting was held virtually. MDOT Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis spoke with the group and reminded the Committee and public of a grants webinar to be held mid-February.

A review of the draft state rail plan was held and a draft set of recommendations was reviewed and approved by the full Committee.

Proposed and submitted legislation was reviewed and the Legislative subcommittee asked to make recommendations on relevant bills filed.

The Committee was presented with MDOT's Level of Traffic Stress analysis.

The 2021 MBPAC Annual Report was reviewed and approved.

### April 22, 2022

April's meeting was held virtually.

The Office of Outdoor Recreation, part of the Department of Natural Resources was introduced to the Committee via a presentation. Questions about its role and scope were offered and discussed.

A Legislative recap of the recently ended session was presented.

A discussion of the League of American Bicyclists state rankings was held.

### July 22, 2022

MBPAC held its first in-person meeting since January 2020 at MDOT HQ. It was a hybrid in-person and teleconference. Approximately 10 individuals attended in-person.

Several presenters reviewed bicycle and pedestrian programs in Prince George's County as well as PG's Vision Zero initiative.

The Pedestrian subcommittee discussed the WayMap presentation at their last subcommittee meeting. The Legislative subcommittee met with the Pedestrian Bicycle Emphasis Area Team's legislative subcommittee to consider bills for the 2023 legislative session. MDOT declined to lead the suggested ideas forward.

Secretary Ports' letter to Senator's Cardin and Van Hollen and Congressman Hoyer was discussed. Secretary Ports stated that retaining the existing span of the Nice Middleton Bridge was not feasible.

Feedback on the recommendations issued in January on the State Rail plan was provided.

### September 27, 2022

In order to address matters that had deadlines prior to the next scheduled MBPAC meeting an additional virtual meeting was held in late September. MBPAC considered and approved two recommendations at this meeting.

MPPAC issued a recommendation to Governor Hogan to delay the demolition of the existing (now old) Nice Middleton Bridge span and study if alternatives could allow the span to be used for other purposes.

MBPAC also provided MdTA with recommendations related to Pedestrian and Bicycle accommodations pertaining to any new or modified Bay Bridge crossings.

### October 28, 2022

MBPAC met virtually for its last meeting of 2022.

Committee member Eli Glazier presented an update on the Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan.

Concerns were discussed about a crossing of the Purple Line at College Park

The Pedestrian subcommittee met in September and also was involved with the ongoing Walkinars and other Walktober events.

A request to form a subcommittee to participate in the upcoming update to the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan was made by MDOT. No committee members immediately expressed interest and members were asked to respond subsequent to the meeting.

## IV. 2023: Focus Areas

For 2023, the Committee will work with the new Administration to provide leadership and member agencies the opportunity to present changes in focus related to pedestrian and bicycling related activities.

MBPAC will continue a focus on understanding local initiatives and non-profits with presentations by local and regional bike and pedestrian organizations. The presentations are intended to provide these groups with the opportunity to discuss barriers to progress for projects they are pursuing. These presentations will also allow MBPAC members to advise State agencies, where appropriate, on potential approaches to help assist and guide the Agencies in these efforts.

The Committee encourages the incoming Administration to actively engage the Committee as part of the development of new policies, procedures and practices and updates to existing documents.

The Committee will also continue to provide advice to the Administration for updates to existing state plans; focusing on aspects related to bicycle and pedestrian matters. The Committee will evaluate pending legislation, seek out opportunities to enhance networks, close gaps, address natural barriers and look to ensure interstate connections are maintained and expanded.

## Appendix A - MBPAC member list as of December 2022

### Chair:

Jon Morrison

### State Representatives:

Maryland Department of Commerce: Peter Cento (acting)

Maryland Department of Disabilities: Bong Derosario

Maryland Department of Health: Kristi Pier

Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Andrew Mengel

Maryland Department of Planning: Brooks Phelps

Maryland Department of Transportation-TSO: Jeff Hirsch

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission: Eli Glazier

Maryland State Department of Education: Gabriel Rose

Maryland State Police: Lt. Laura Beck

### Residents:

Baltimore Metropolitan Area: Pierre Stewart, Matthew Hendrickson

Eastern Shore: Patti Stevens

Southern Maryland: Marshall Edwards

Washington DC Metropolitan Area: Jim Titus, John Wetmore

Western Maryland: Steve Green

Visually Impaired Representative: vacant

Mobility Impaired Representative: Marian Vessels

### At Large:

Antoine RJ Wright, Nigel Samaroo, Steve Friedman

## Appendix B – Links to Relevant Documents

January 2022 Meeting:

[January 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Meeting Presentation](#)

[State Rail Plan Comments](#)

[Legislative Recommendation](#)

April 2022 Meeting:

[April 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Meeting Presentation](#)

July 2022 Meeting:

[July 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Meeting Presentations](#)

September 2022 Meeting

[September 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Nice Middleton Bridge Recommendation](#)

[New Bay Bridge NEPA Recommendation](#)

October 2022 Meeting:

[October 2022 \(draft\) Meeting Minutes](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Meeting Presentation](#)

Past Years' Meeting Minutes

[2021 Annual Report and Meeting Minutes](#)

[2020 Annual Report and Meeting Minutes](#)

[2019 Meeting Minutes](#)

[2018 Meeting Minutes](#)

[2017 Meeting Minutes](#)

## Appendix C – Subcommittee reports

### Pedestrian subcommittee

The Maryland Pedestrian Sub-Committee, an ad-hoc sub-committee of the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, held a total of four meetings in 2022: March 17th, June 23rd, September 8<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Mission Statement:** *The Pedestrian Subcommittee of the Maryland Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee will advise agencies on measures to provide pedestrians of all ages and abilities, safe, accessible, comfortable, and connected pathways (sidewalks, paths, and trails) to residences, businesses, mass transit, recreation, and goods and services using the vision in the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.*



Throughout the year attendance continued to average 30 individuals or more. Sub-committee members were recruited from the annual WALKTOBER events, with representation coming from state and local government agencies, non-profits, businesses, enthusiasts and advocates. Over 140 individuals have asked to receive invitations to the quarterly meetings.

Sub-committee members learned of pedestrian activities and programs undertaken throughout the state, WALKTOBER events, and other pedestrian initiatives. Members supported and promoted WALKTOBER events, hosted walks for Walk Maryland Day and shared relevant resources and best practices. The Sub-committee continued to encourage articles for the bi-annual Pedestrian newsletter, helped inform the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, supported the Transportation Data Equity project and provided input on the update of new Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

The Sub-Committee also made great progress in achieving the goals it established in 2021:

#### **Goal 1. The Subcommittee will be a conduit for sharing information and best practices around pedestrian issues**

Objective 1. Host quarterly meetings that allows participants to share information about their programs, activities and resources.

The Committee hosted a total of five presentations throughout the year from WMATA's Waymap to The Trust for Public Land to Montgomery County's Predictive Safety Analysis Tool, to name a few.

Objective 2. Promote the new pedestrian newsletter as a venue for information sharing. Subcommittee participants will be encouraged to write articles for inclusion.

The Committee published two newsletters in the last twelve months with guest authors which can be found on line at: <https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=176>



**Goal 2. The Subcommittee will encourage participation of pedestrian activities**

Objective 1. Promote activities such as WALKTOBER and Walk Maryland Day

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual WALKTOBER had over 6,000 registrations for the four Walkinars during the month - Registration Increased by over 275% from 2021.

<https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=136>

- Governor Hogan proclaimed October WALKTOBER and October 5 as Walk Maryland Day
- 43 Partners joined the WALKTOBER campaign
- 73 registered as Walk Leaders; 232 registered as ‘Solemates’
- 23 Maryland jurisdictions participated in Walk Maryland Day
- 38 Schools registered for Walk to School Day
- Over 160 walk events throughout the month
- 11 Presentations from nationally renowned pedestrian experts

Objective 2. Raise the awareness of pedestrian opportunities for state and local governments, neighborhoods, non-profits and business entities as a form of transportation, recreation and health.

The Subcommittee supported MDOT and partner agencies in promoting walking and walkability by informing an updated WALKTOBER website as a resource for pedestrian information and provide timely information on MDOT’s WalkCycle Facebook Page.

**Goal 3. The Subcommittee will review and inform state and local jurisdictions on pedestrian plans and projects**

Objective 1. Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

Continued to support community outreach.

Objective 2. Transportation Data Equity Project

Continued to support the Taskar Center for Accessible Technology in advancing the USDOT funded pilot project as described here: <https://transitequity.cs.washington.edu/index.php/abouttdei/>.

Objective 3. Other relevant plans and projects

Provided support and input to update the statewide Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (to be published in 2023).

## Eastern Shore subcommittee

The group that convened to prepare a regional presentation to MBPAC in January 2021 has grown and evolved to become the Eastern Shore Regional Trails Coalition. In 2022 the Coalition held two workshops at Chesapeake College facilitated by the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy: all day on April 28<sup>th</sup> and a ½ day on October 4<sup>th</sup>. More than 70 stakeholders from around the region joined in-person and an additional 20 virtually. The sessions included presentations on coalition building; regional trail development and sustainability. Subgroups from the Lower Shore, Mid-Shore and Upper Shore shared progress and challenges and began mapping existing trails, gaps and opportunities.

Accomplishments and progress:

- The [Eastern Shore Land Conservancy](#) applied for and received an operational grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to support the work of the [Eastern Shore Trails Network](#).
- The Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition partnered with the Lower Shore Land Trust to apply for a \$100K grant that was funded by the Maryland Economic Development Fund to develop a trail network plan for the Lower Shore Counties of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset. The [Tri-County Council of the Lower Shore](#) will administer the funding and provide technical assistance.
- [Talbot Thrive](#) requested that [Mid-Shore Council](#) added the Trail project goals to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
- Prepared MBPAC recommendations for consideration for rail trail planning and improved access for multi-modal transportation which were included in the 2022 [update to the State Rail Plan](#).

An Eastern Shore core group formed in November 2022 and is meeting monthly to develop goals and identify resources for the coalition. 2023 priorities are to apply to the [National Park Service for Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance](#) to create a Regional Greenway Plan for the Eastern Shore and a sustainable organizational framework to support it.

## Legislative subcommittee

Three meetings were held in 2022. The first two in February 2022 were to consider bills filed in the General Assembly and make a recommendation in support or otherwise for bills relating to Bicycle and Pedestrian matters.

As a result of those meetings, a recommendation related to specific bills from the Legislative Subcommittee, on behalf of and approved by MBPAC, was issued to the Administration and State Agencies.

The third was a joint meeting with the P-BEAT legislative subcommittee to consider legislation for the 2023 session. Two suggested bills were made as a result of that meeting.

To be provided

## Appendix D – MDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Key Staff

Name	Title	MDOT Business Unit	Role
<b>Jeff Hirsch</b>	Assistant Secretary, Director of Bicycle & Pedestrian Access	TSO	Advises Secretary on all bike ped issues
<b>Marty Baker</b>	Deputy Director of Bicycle & Pedestrian Access	TSO	Advises Leadership on Issues and Coordinates w/Agencies on Partnerships/Investments
<b>Matt Baker</b>	Chief, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division	SHA	
<b>Christy Bernal</b>	Transportation Alternatives Program Manager	SHA	Manages Transportation Alternatives and Safe Routes To School Programs.
<b>Cynthia Spriggs</b>	DOT Executive Officer III	MVA	Manages Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area in Strategic Highway Safety Plan Efforts.
<b>Nate Evans</b>	Active Transportation Planner	TSO	Manages Bikeways grant program and other bike/ped efforts
<b>Luis Gonzalez</b>	Assistant Division Chief Innovative Contracting Division	SHA	Manages sidewalk and bicycle retrofit programs
<b>Vacant</b>	Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator	SHA	
<b>Molly Porter</b>	Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner	SHA	Leading Context Driven/Complete Streets efforts
<b>Cheryl Ladota</b>	Recreational Trails Program Manager	SHA	Manages Recreational Trails Program
<b>Patrick McMahon</b>	Bicycle/Pedestrian Planner	MTA	Oversees pedestrian and bicycle connections to transit
<b>Jared Paper-Evers</b>	Project Manager	SHA	Oversees ADA compliance standards and bicycle accommodations on SHA projects
<b>Francine Waters</b>	Transportation Planner	TSO	Leads TSO pedestrian initiatives Walktober, MBPAC Ped Subcommittee

### MDOT Business Units

MTA – Maryland Transit Administration

MVA – Motor Vehicle Administration

SHA – State Highway Administration

TSO – The Secretary’s Office